

HOUSE RESOLUTION 160
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend J. D. Williams for
meritorious service and great valor during World
War II.

WHEREAS, Our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army; J. D. Williams, drafted on June 11, 1943, became a member of "America's Greatest Generation" when he sailed to Europe in January 1944; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams participated in Operation Overlord, the D-Day invasion, going ashore at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944; he fought in battles throughout northern France, the Rhineland and central Europe, including the "Battle of the Bulge" in the Ardennes; and

WHEREAS, J. D. Williams served with great gallantry as a machine gunner in the "Big Red One" (Company M, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division); because of the intensity of the fighting, the average life expectancy for machine gunners in that campaign was 33 seconds; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams served his entire overseas tour with the same unit, despite receiving several wounds and spending time in recovery; his impressive list of awards and medals includes two Purple Hearts, a D-Day Pin, five Bronze Stars, five campaign medals, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the European/Africa/Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Occupation of Germany medal, the World War II Participation Medal and the Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, After World War II, J.D. Williams returned safely home to Roane County, thanks to "the Good Lord and his Mother's prayers"; he married June Webster and is the proud father of David Williams and the loving grandfather of Erika Williams; and

WHEREAS, A devout member of South Harriman Baptist Church, Mr. Williams, like other veterans of his generation, got on with his life, raised a family and participated in the life of his community; and

WHEREAS, On May 31, 2001, J. D. Williams received his high school diploma, along with the thanks and appreciation of his grateful neighbors and fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams has served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his heroism both in the United States Army and in society today; and

WHEREAS, J.D. Williams performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding and his bravery under fire was in the best tradition of members of the armed forces of our nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend J. D. Williams of Roane County for his heroic and meritorious service in the United States Army during World War II and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our pride and satisfaction in his being awarded his high school diploma on May 31, 2001.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

